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# STRANGE

Newes from *Antvværpe*, which hap-  
pened the 12. of August last past. 1612:

FIRST PRINTED In DVTCH

at Bergen ap Zoame by Ioris Staell and  
now translated into English by I. F.

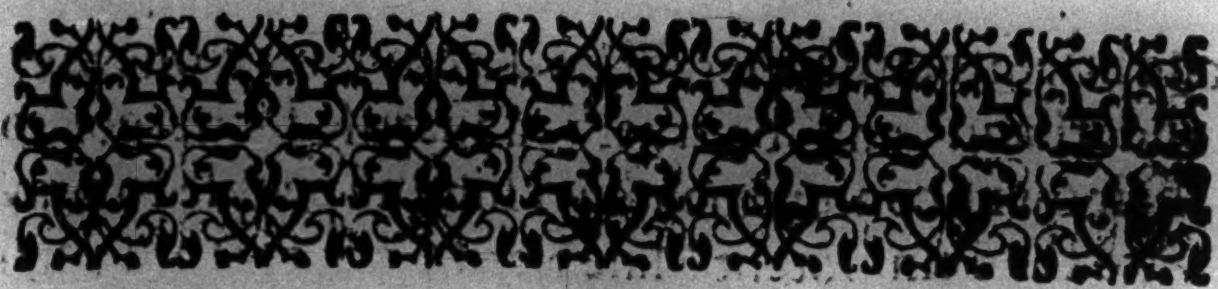


¶ At London printed by Ralph Blower. 1612.









# To the Reader



It is not vnknowne vnto most men of sort, what a famous Citty the Citty of Antwarp is, wherein of late, the wonderfull power of Sathan, hath ( by the permission of the Almighty God) bin there done & shoven in the Cloyster of S. Michael's in the said Citty, which is not onely worthy: but also very requilite & meete to be made knowne and manifested vnto all men, in regard of the sinnes and wickednes which now in thiese dayes remaineth to common amongst all nations, and forasmuch as of late the foule Finde ( by Gods permission ) shewed his wrath and indignation against the same Citty by consuming and spoyling of a great part of the Cloyster there, as it is most truely made knowne vnto diuers and sundry persons already, as well by letters as otherwise: Therefore to the ende that all persons should vnderstand of the strange Accidents there happened, I thought it meete to set foorth a

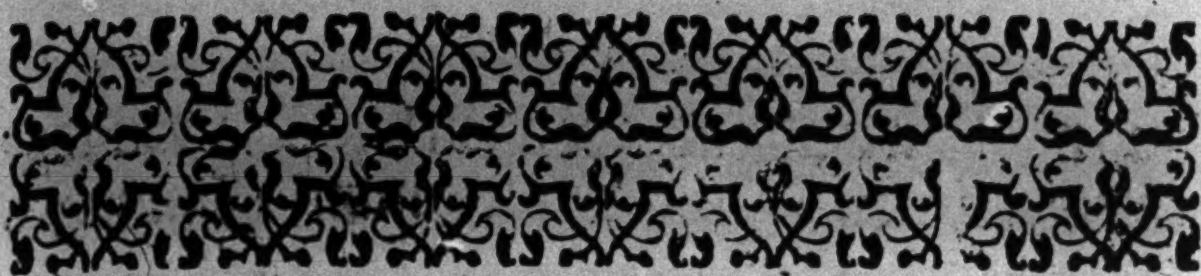


## To the Reader!

and briefe treatise thereof, whereby euery one may  
vnderstand, and be truly aduertised thereof to  
their owne contentments, wishing all people to pray  
vnto the omnipotent Maieltie of God, for to defend  
vs all from such, and the like Sathanicall Actions of  
the most tempting and wicked Sathan, who seek-  
eth dayly for the distriction of all man-  
kind, as in the matter following  
is at large truly declared.

(♦♦)





A true and perfect newes of the  
wonderfull Iudgments of God shewed in  
the famous Citty of Antwerpe: in S. Michaells  
Cloyster there in which place most of the Princes  
or Potentates of those Countreys are commonly  
entertayned & lodged when they come into the  
Citty: which said Cloyster, a great part there-  
of was greatly hurt and spoyled, the 12. of  
August last past. 1612. as hereafter  
is most truely related.



OR as much as this fa-  
mous City of Antwerp now  
is knowne to be one of the  
fairest Citties of budding in  
all those parts of the Cun-  
treyp: and also that for trade  
of Marchandize it is now  
far surmounting many other  
townes, which in times past haue bin of great  
fame, and now this flourishing Citty abound-  
eth with many rich Marchants and Cittizens,  
besides many other persons of great account,  
likewise there are in the same Citty many faire  
and goodly Churches and Cloysters of most rich  
and stately buildinges, the same being beautified,  
and



and most curiously adorne<sup>d</sup> with diuers & sundry  
 costly and rich Alters, besides many Images  
 and other Idoletrous and superstitious reliques,  
 such as the like are not to be seene or found else-  
 where, in all the Netherlandes, as every one that  
 hath bin there can truely iustifie and report of, a-  
 mongst all which, the richest, and most fairest  
 monumēt<sup>s</sup> that now remaine there, are in a place  
 called Saint Michaels Cloyster, wherein most  
 commonly are all the chiefe<sup>st</sup> Princes and Po-  
 tentates of those Countries lodged, during their  
 abode there. And as of late it hath bin manifest-  
 ly seene and knowne, how that the great and  
 mighty Prince Abertus Duke of Brabant was  
 lodged there in the same Pallace or Cloyster him-  
 selfe, besides many other great Princes and Po-  
 tentates with him, which said Pallace or Cloy-  
 ster is situate not farre from the Castle of Ant-  
 warpe, wherein are a thousand and three hundred  
 Spaniards and souldiers which doe now re-  
 maine therein: who according to an auncient  
 custome alwaies ever heeretofore continued a-  
 mongst them, doe vsually once a yeere make a  
 great account of their most worthy Patron S.  
 Iaques, otherwise (according to our English  
 tongue) called S. Iames, vpon which day is shewed  
 many great triumphs, sports & pastimes, through-  
 out all the whole Citty, besides much feasting &  
 banqueting, especially, amongst all the papistical  
 sort of people, as well the Massing Priests: as  
 also



also all the souldiers, and others there; all which is done in honor and reuerence of S. Iames, as in manner and forme is heere expressed.

First of all, the Gunners and others in the Castle, doe there discharge off all their great Ordnance, which is round about the Castle: Then all the souldiers standing in order of battall, doe discharge and shoot off all their peeces (both Muskets and Caliuers) three times one after another, in honor of S. Iames, as aforesaid, and thereby they hold a firme and steadfast opinion, and are fully perswaded amongst themselves, that they are all quite freed and delivered from all trouble and mischief that might happen and insue vnto them, for all the yeere after. This is all performed in the forenoone.

Upon the same day in the afternoone there was a Tragedy played, wherein was shewed, the manner of the Turkes fight against the Christians. At which time, the Spanish Embassador that last departed England, came with a great traine into the Citie from Bruckell, and there was very honorably receiued as well by the Citizens there, as also by all the Captaines and souldiers, and great triumphing was at his coming in, amongst which, the Citizens caused great store of ships to be placed before the towne, and there they planted a great number of souldiers, which with their long shooting and discharging their peeces in Ordnance they beate



To have a huge great Ball of Brasse or Copper,  
 which was richly gilded over, which stood upon  
 the top of the steeple of S. Michaels Church,  
 and was the same quite through in many places:  
 the charge of making of a new Ball, and place-  
 ing of it there againe as the other was before,  
 will cost them an infinit some of money: more-  
 over at that time great store of fireworkes were  
 shovene and made upon the waters, to the great  
 delight of the Embassadour and all others that  
 were there present.

The next day after, they likewise acted a Co-  
 medie in Spannish, the effect and meaning there-  
 of, was (altogether) to shew, and make the people  
 to beleue that they are, & so they account them-  
 selues to be, both lords and maisters over the  
 whole world. But let all true Christians now  
 marke well what afterwarde ensued amongst  
 them.

The third day after S. Iames his day and feast  
 holden amongst them as afore rehearsed, in the  
 afternone, he the devill came & playd his Tra-  
 gedie there in the same Church and Cloyster of  
 Saint Michaels, who came thither with such  
 a horrible and terrible noise both of Thunder  
 and lightning, that all the people that were in  
 the towne were greatly amazed therewith.

As soone as this Satanicall fiend came into  
 the Cittie in this fierce and terrible manner,  
 making a great noise or roaring over the same, he  
 first



first came & late vpon the crosse which standeth  
 vpon the toppe of the Steeple of S. Michaels  
 Church where he was discerned & plainly seene  
 of many people, hauing in one of his ugly and  
 filthy Clawes, a huge great stone the which stone  
 with great and mighty force, he cast downe into  
 the said Steeple, and therewith he made such a  
 huge and fearefull a noyse and ratling, that the  
 Monckes that were in the Cloyster, with great  
 feare and anguish ran all out of their lodgings,  
 verily supposing that the deuill had bin at their  
 heeles: from thence he went into the Steeple, (as  
 it seemed vnto them all) and set the same on fire,  
 where both it burnt most fearefully, and the flame  
 thereof was so terrible and great, that many of  
 the stones of the Steeple (with the heate and  
 force of the fire) flew out and scattered so abroad,  
 that it did exceeding much hurt, in and about the  
 same Church and Cloyster, and likewise the leade  
 being molten, dropt downe so extreame fast and  
 was so scalding hot, that no man durst goe neere  
 to quench that vnnmercifull fire, the fury of it was  
 so great: neuertheless the Monckes bestirred them-  
 selves so wel and lustely there, to quench the same  
 fire with holy water, that they had spent so much  
 thereof, that they had worke inough to doe, to  
 read their ordinary Coniuration, and to make  
 their Autentible Charme, to consecrate  
 more holy water: And yet all that they could  
 doe at that time would not serue their turne, for



at that instant, if that the common sort of People (as labouring men and such like) had not come thither to ayde and assist them, in this their great necessitie and still called for both holped and vn-holped water, and had moze steadfast faith and better and moze perleuerance in them, then the Munkes and themselves, I verie perswade my selfe, that their holy water would haue little awayed them at that time. But if they had not mixed other vn-holy water therewith, and by the carefulnes of the chiefe Gouvernours and Magistrates, and of the good industrie of all the Artificers, souldiers and labouring men that were then present, all of them being most careful and painefull in this busines, and ready to doe their best indeuours in this extremitie, who (by Gods helpe and theirs) at last quenched the fier by force, and yet before they could doe it, the greatest part of the leades that couered the Church was molten done from the top thereof, & many stones flew out of the walles & did great harme, both to the lodgings in the Cloyster, and to many people inhabiting there about, besides the great hurt that was done to the Church, at that time. The like villanie wrought against Gods Church by the most wicked freend, hath neuer, or seldome heretofore bin heard of.

But when Sathan had performed this wicked Tragedy, before spoken of: yet he began anew, to shew the Munkes what he was further able to



to doe, he began to play a Commedy with a great Picture that was hangde within the Church, that had bin made by one of the rarest or excellen- test workeman in the whole Countreys, whose name was (as then called) Peter Rubbens, a man well knowne throughout all the seuentene Provinces for his knowledge and skill in that Art or science, and that there is none comparable unto him; which said Picture, the deuill rent and tore all in many pieces, he ruinated the same in such manner and sort, that the repaying there- of will cost an hundred pound (at the least) before it can be wrought to that perfection which it was of and so set vp againe, in the like order and forme as it was at the first there placed.

Likewise, he in his Sathanicall course, rent and spoyle the Alter whercupon this picture or Idolatrous Image stood vpon, also spoyle & defaced the same w<sup>th</sup> his wicked nayles or clawes, that he almost tore the same all quite downe to the ground, which since that time, hath bin view- ed and seene by many thousandes of people, who doe greatly admire at the same, they all gi- uing God most hartly thanks for their safe deliuerance from all the mischiefes that Sathan (if he might haue by Gods sufferance) bin as then permitted to haue done his owne will.

Moreouer he tooke the Image of an other Saint which he papisticall sort of persons much hono- red there, and made great account thereof,



for that they held the same for a great Relicke in their Church, and did much more worship and honour that Relicke then all the rest.

But what was it that grieved the Papists there, and in many other places planted most: that was, for the destruction and spoyling of another Image (of what nature, qualitie or condition the same was of, none or very few can tell) yet notwithstanding, amongst many of them, great accompt was made thereof, but to what vse, let vs leaue them to their owne conceits and fond opinion, and now let vs returne to a third action.

Likewise he tooke another Image of a saint (pictured like an old frier in times past) that was neere the place where the other stood, and cast both it, the stone and place whereon it was seated all vnto the ground, and withall (not yet contented) with this, beate it as small as powder.

All which his Sathanicall activitie was shewed vpon the third day after S. Iaques his day before mentioned: all which by him was performed in the Cloyster of Saint Michaells, and vpon the sudden the deuill was gon away againe none perceiued him, and then his playes and shewes were ended.

The fourth day the Monkes and fryers, in the morning betimes fell to prayer againe, and afterwards no vision of the serpent scene nor heard of any more, they then much praised and glorified



glorified God in all his workes, and seeing and hoping that the tempest or storme was as then past and gone, they in their owne bounty & glory, being glad that the storme was past and gone, bestowed vpon them that were poore workemen labourers Souldiers and others, for their paines and in recompence of the busines done, bestowed fire Barrells of Beere, which amongst them was as then holden for a great matter, all which was merrely drunke by amongst them.

By this and many other most wonderfull and fearefull examples (you may see and most evidently marke that the Commandements of God being wholly troden downe vnderfoote and neglected, God therefore sendeth such messages, and messengers vnto the places wherewith Idolatrie, and superstitious ceremonies are dayly bled, thereby to giue them warning to amend & leaue of all such wickednes and abomination, and not any more to serue nor pray vnto any such Idols, that are made of nothing else, but of stocks and stoues, and of other earthly substance, and to moue vs to serue him with an humble and penitent heart, for I onely am the Lord your God (saith he) that forgiveth the sinnes of the people vnto the third and fourth generation, of those that loue me, and keepe my Commandements, and punish all those that hate me, as wee see the papists dayly committ and vse innumerable kindes of



of blasphemies, & superstitious idolatrie, with  
 many vaine idle toys and imaginations of  
 their owne braine and fickle inventions, which  
 God utterly abhorreth, and is greatly displeased  
 therewith: therefore I wish and counsell all men  
 to loue, serue, and honor God almighty, and not  
 to worship stockes and stones as all Idolaters  
 doe: And thus (with my heart) wishing all happi-  
 nes, and eternall saluation through Christ Jesus  
 vnto all true and faithfull Christians that loue  
 the holy and blessed word of God: I take my  
 leaue.

Leaue of your sinne, and so your liues amend:  
 And thinke vpon Gods iudgment in the end,  
 For Mathew saith, there is not any man:  
 Of what degree, so ere he be that can  
 Withstand the same, which will come vnaware,  
 Like theefe by night: therefore wee must haue care,  
 To watch and pray to him, till that we may  
 Be ready, for that great and dreadfull day.  
 Wherein all those, that here haue liued well,  
 For euermore, with God in heauen shall dwell.

FINIS.